



State of Vermont
PERMIT AND LICENSE INFORMATION

**SMALL BUSINESS FACT SHEET
OPERATION OF A MICRO-BREWERY**

Micro-breweries have become popular entrepreneurial projects. However, whether operated as a home occupation or from a commercial building, the wastewater from the brewing process may contain high concentrations of organic matter, which can overload traditional in-ground wastewater systems or require pre-treatment before being accepted by a municipal wastewater system. This fact sheet will provide general information about wastewater management and other permits needed.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

A **Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit** ([Sheet #1*](#)) is required by the Wastewater Management Division if any of the following occurs:

- Construction of a new building with plumbing in it
- Changes in use of existing water supply or wastewater disposal systems
- Conversion of an existing building, in whole or in part, into a micro-brewery

The extent of engineering analysis and review for the proposed and/or existing water supply and wastewater disposal systems (if not municipal) will depend upon the existing uses and the proposed changes. As part of the permit review, you may have to hire a professional engineer or licensed designer ([Sheet # 11](#)) to evaluate your existing systems and recommend whether improvements are required. Please contact the Permit Specialist or Regional Engineer in your Regional Office to further discuss your project.

Permit Specialist Locator: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/pa/index.htm>

Regional Engineer Locator: <http://wastewater.vt.gov/poregionaloffices.htm>

Generally, sanitary wastewater (toilets, sinks & showers) and process wastewater (equipment washwater, spilled product & facility washdown) are regulated separately. For example:

- If the wastewaters from a micro-brewery were being sent to a municipal treatment facility a Pretreatment Permit ([Sheet #8*](#)), might be required for the process wastewater in addition to the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit ([Sheet #1*](#)) for the sanitary wastewater.
- If no municipal sewer is available and the micro-brewery is using an on-site septic system for its sanitary wastes, an Underground Injection Permit ([Sheet #1.2*](#)) or an Indirect Discharge Permit ([Sheet #9.1*](#)) may be required for disposal of the process wastewaters.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PERMITS

- If solids separated from pre-treatment of process wastewater are land applied, a certification from Residual Management may be needed from the Wastewater Management Division ([Sheet #10](#)).
- Bottle Certification from the Waste Management Division is needed for approval of labels and the certification of glass bottles for all beverage containers that are required to carry the "VT 5 cents" message. ([Sheet #42](#))

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (ACT 250)

Construction of improvements for commercial purposes may require that you obtain an Act 250 permit. ([Sheet #47](#)*). If there is already an Act 250 permit on an existing commercial building, any changes may require an amendment of the permit. Contact the Act 250 Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator at the Regional Office for a jurisdictional ruling on your specific project.

<http://www.nrb.state.vt.us>

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, Division of Fire Safety

The Department of Public Safety, Fire Safety Division has jurisdiction over buildings that the public may enter or where there are employees. This Department reviews projects with respect to issues of fire safety, building codes, accessibility, boiler inspections and electrical and plumbing installations. Please call a Department of Public Safety, Fire Safety Division district office to determine if your business requires a permit or approval. (Sheets [#49](#), [49.1](#), [50](#), [50.1](#), [50.2](#), [50.3](#)*)

<http://www.vtfiresafety.org>

DISTRICT FIRE SAFETY DIVISION OFFICES

Barre 802-479-4434

Rutland 802-786-5867

Springfield 802-885-8883

Williston 802-879-2300

OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES YOU SHOULD CONTACT:

- Vermont Liquor Control Board ([Sheet #90](#))
- Local municipal offices for zoning and building permits
- Vermont Department of Taxes (Sheet's [#91](#), [92](#) and [95](#))
- Secretary of State ([Sheet #90.1](#))
- Vermont Department of Health. Food service license (Sheet's [#53](#) & [53.1](#))
- Federal Treasury Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
(See your local phone book under U.S. Treasury Department)

This is not an all-inclusive list, but identifies the permit and licenses that will most likely be required prior to operating a micro-brewery.

The Department of Environmental Conservation provides a unique service to anyone with questions about state permits. Permit Specialists are available to assist you in Springfield, Essex Junction, Rutland and Barre Regional Environmental Offices, as well as part time in St. Johnsbury, St. Albans, Bennington, Middlebury and Morrisville. Call them at the numbers listed below for assistance. They will guide you through the process by completing a Project Review Sheet that identifies state programs that may require a permit or license for your project. It could save you time, money and headaches.

PERMIT SPECIALISTS

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/pa/index.htm>

Rick Oberkirch	Rutland, Bennington, Middlebury	(802) 786-5907
John Miller	Barre, Morrisville	(802) 476-0195
	St. Johnsbury (Tuesdays)	(802) 751-0127
Jeff McMahon	Essex Junction, St. Albans	(802) 879-5676
Jackie Carr	Springfield	(802) 885-8850

*Sheet #'s refer to summary sheets in the Permit Handbook that offer a brief description of the permit program. The Handbook is available at most Town Offices and State Libraries, and on the Internet at:

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/permit_hb/index.htm